

firms and convicted felons in business, it will reward them amazingly with an exemption from liability for past actions.

Yesterday was Halloween, but today the Republican leaders are trying one last trick and treat on the American public. Reject the private firms that have failed us so miserably. Put Federal law enforcement in the airports and make the traveling public safe.

FEDERALIZING AIRPORT EMPLOYEES

(Mr. GRAVES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, as we discuss the characteristics of an aviation security bill we must not lose focus of our responsibility to the flying public. Airline passengers must feel safe before they return en masse to the skies. Nothing will guarantee their safety until all items placed on an aircraft are thoroughly screened by skilled professionals using the best available technology. As we implement new changes to be aviation security, we must ensure that all baggage entering the plane is properly screened.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) for their untiring efforts to draft the most comprehensive, sensible transportation security legislation possible. Enforcing strict Federal supervision on the Nation's screening programs makes sense. Furthermore, it is a method proven to work. Simply federalizing 28,000 employees will not change the quality of our screening process.

Now is the not the time to implement a one-size-fits-all cure. Rather, the security needs of each airport should determine what screening measures work best for their particular situation. It is absurd to think that mere federalization is the answer to such severe structural problems that presently exist.

Mr. Speaker, I adamantly believe that the Federal role is to set the standard and enforce it. Then each situation must be met as it dictates. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 3150, the Transportation Act of 2001.

IMMUNIZATION FOR AMERICANS

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today about something that is very important to our country, adult immunization. Immunizations have helped prevent many illnesses and possible complications due to illness. Unfortunately, there is a misconception that immunization is only for children and for childhood diseases. The fact is that adults benefit from immunizations also. Hepatitis B, chicken

pox, pneumonia are just a few examples of vaccine preventable illnesses affecting adults.

Data for the year 2000 show an increase in the number of deaths due to influenza and pneumonia, now over 67,000 deaths. This is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Although the flu vaccine may not prevent the flu, it greatly reduces the severity of the illness and the risk of complications, especially in adults over 50 years of age and those who suffer chronic health conditions.

Immunization is a cost-effective way of preventing disease and at a time when our Nation is faced with the possibility of unlikely yet very threatening infections, we must take the opportunity to be proactive against illnesses that we can prevent.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF MURDERED PAKISTANIS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer condolences to the families of the 16 Pakistanis brutally murdered on Sunday as they worshipped in their church in Pakistan. Barbaric criminals burst into the church, locked the doors behind them and started firing guns into the worshippers. These twisted terrorists then continued to pump bullets into toddlers and women who lay wounded and dying in a pile on the floor of the church.

To the families of those killed, please know that our hearts and prayers are with you in this time of suffering and mourning.

In the midst of the important battles against terrorists and the Taliban, our Nation must also continue to stand with those around the world whose fundamental rights are violated at the hands of extremists in their communities. The danger faced by Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan cannot be overestimated, particularly in this time.

I commend President Musharraf for his unequivocal condemnation of this tragedy and his pursuit of the murderers, and urge him to do all in his power to ensure that this does not happen again and that they bring these criminals to justice.

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR FEDERALIZING AIRPORT EMPLOYEES

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, aviation security is a national security. Protecting our skies is a matter of national defense and we should not leave national security to the private companies that contract to the lowest bidder.

We would not expect the President to be protected by the lowest bidder. We do not do that. We do not expect our leadership here in the House to get protected by the lowest bidder contract.

The current system is broken and needs to be corrected. Contracting to the lowest bidder has created a workforce that suffers from high turnover, and we have seen the turnover over 400 percent, low pay and low morale. Baggage screeners should be a highly skilled, highly trained workforce that serves the frontline of this Nation's national defense. There is a broad bipartisan support for federalizing the workers.

The Washington Post just came out with a report that 82 percent of Americans support this effort. We need to make sure that every American feels secure when they go to the airport, and making them feel secure is by making sure that those people are well-trained and well-educated. The Air Pilots Association has endorsed it, and I ask your support.

FAITH IN THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for the Senate version of the airline security bill. The plan presented by the majority is simply just flawed. It does nothing to ensure that screening routines in this country are uniform, where screening in La Guardia Airport in my district is the same as screening in Des Moines, Iowa, where the screening in LAX is the same as in Butte, Montana. That is what the Democratic substitute does and the majority bill simply does not.

The Senate bill passed 100 to 0 with 49 members of the Republican Party supporting that bill. Can they all be wrong? We need to give the American people full faith and confidence in the airline industry. The majority bill simply does not do that. The Senate bipartisan bill begins to do just that.

AMERICA'S FEAR OF FLYING

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, while America is afflicted by a fear of flying, this House, or certain Members are afflicted by a fear of federalization and I have to ask, what are you all afraid of? What is wrong with a Federal workforce? Is it the same thing that is wrong with a Federal workforce at the FBI that is now investigating terrorist incidents? Do you criticize the so-called Federal bureaucracy at NASA that won us the race to the Moon? Are you afraid of government influence, such as the government issue GI's who went ashore on D-Day and won us World War II? Would you privatize the military now fighting in the Middle East? Of course not.

These are all good government employees who did their jobs well in the service to this country. And I might just say one more thing. If you are so afraid of Federal influence, I dare you, I just dare you to submit a bill to privatize the Capitol Police that protects this building.

Now, this building does not take off and go anywhere. It does not fly, and Americans who do fly deserve just as good protection as the Members in this Chamber with a Federal force outside.

CREATING SAFE AIRLINES

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to end the rhetoric and do what is right for American people. We say that business must move on and we must continue as we did before. But we cannot do that unless we fix the problem of airline security. And clearly, as the Senate has said in a unanimous voice, the way we fix security in the airline industry is by federalizing it.

We must make sure that our airports are like our borders. We would not privatize the border line with individuals to monitor the borders, nor can we do that with our airlines.

If we want to go back to normal, if we want our business community to resume itself, we must make it safe for them to fly, because that is what is going to help stimulate our economy so we can get back to normal and we can begin to focus on the things that are important to all Americans. We cannot do it until people feel safe flying, and the only way we can do that is by federalizing.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2311, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 272 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 272

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2311) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which

I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 272 provides for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2311, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2002. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration and provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, this is a noncontroversial conference report, and I am asking for us to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

I want to congratulate the conferees on their hard work and urge passage of the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Members to support this rule and this conference report. Both the House and the Senate passed this bill on a bipartisan basis, and this conference report also represents a bipartisan, bicameral compromise.

Additionally, this conference report contains provisions that are very important to the people that I represent in north Texas. It provides \$5.5 million in critical funding for a flood control project along Johnson Creek in Arlington, Texas. It provides \$10 million for the Dallas Floodway Extension, and it provides \$1.2 for the Trinity River Basin. The final funding that each of us will receive meets the needs identified by the Army Corps of Engineers and local authorities.

The conference report also provides \$1 million for a state of the art annex to the Science Center at Texas Wesleyan University, which serves neighborhood children as well as students in a historic inner-city neighborhood on the east side of Fort Worth, Texas.

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I also want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) for working with me to fund these critical provisions for north Texas.

This is a good bill, Mr. Speaker, and the conferees should be commended for doing the best they could under the circumstances. But as many of them will tell us, they were hamstrung by the fact that the Senate originally passed these bills before September 11.

Since that infamous date, Mr. Speaker, all of us have become acutely aware of the massive security needs facing America. This bill does not reflect many of the priorities of today's new war against terrorism.

For instance, the conference report provides no additional funds to address terrorist threats related to nuclear weapons plants or Department of Energy labs. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) offered an amendment to beef up the Nation's nonprolifera-

tion activities that prevent terrorists from getting Russian nuclear materials. Indeed, the administration had proposed cutting \$98 million from this critical program.

Fortunately, this conference report restores \$81 million to this vital program, but that is still \$17 million below last year's level.

Overall, the Federal agencies funded by this bill have identified about \$1.2 billion in additional security needs, but this conference report funds only \$287 million of that, leaving us about \$900 million short.

Since September 11, Mr. Speaker, America's security needs have increased, not decreased. The safety of every American depends on whether this Congress and this President will invest more, not less, in meeting them.

So after we pass this conference report today, it is crucial that all of us work together to immediately ensure all of our homeland security needs are fully funded. There is no higher priority.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Alabama (Chairman CALLAHAN) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY), for putting together this energy and water appropriation bill on a genuine bipartisan basis. This bill, because of their leadership, funds vital flood control and water projects for communities throughout the Nation. It funds important energy and research programs.

I also commend the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) for working hard to plus up about \$85 million in the administration's ill-advised and dangerous budget proposal that would have cut \$100 million from our programs designed to keep nuclear material and weapons out of the hands of terrorists.

I know this bill will pass by a strong margin on a bipartisan basis because of all the good things in it. However, Mr. Speaker, in good conscience I cannot remain silent about some decisions that have been made by this Congress, some of which go beyond the authority of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

I find it unbelievable, Mr. Speaker, unbelievable that just 1 week ago this House said that we could afford to give \$7.4 billion in unearned corporate rebate checks to just 16 Fortune 500 corporations. Yet, this Congress to date will have cut programs designed to keep nuclear weapons and materials away from terrorists.

I find it irresponsible and dangerous that even in light of the September 11 terrorist attacks, this House has said, in effect, by our votes that giving special huge tax breaks to corporations like General Motors, they got nearly \$1 billion, IBM got \$1.4 billion, General Electric a little under \$1 billion, that those tax rebate checks to those corporations are more important than